

**In the Claims:**

Please AMEND claims and 1, 3-14, and 16-26, and

Please ADD claim 27 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for charging for services in an IP based communication system, comprising:~~

establishing an accounting session between a network element and a charging function for the session, wherein the network element comprises a gateway of an internet protocol based communication system; and

initiating a change in the accounting session ~~at~~ on the initiation of the charging function; and

charging for services in the communication system based on the accounting session,

wherein the ~~step of~~ initiating a change in the accounting session comprises transmitting a request to update the accounting session from the charging function to the network element.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting the request is comprises transmitting an update accounting request message.

4. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1, wherein further comprising:

responsive to the request, implementing, in the network element, implements a change in the charging of the accounting session.

5. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
~~wherein~~ responsive to the request, transmitting, by the network element, transmits an acknowledgement to the charging function.

6. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 5, wherein the  
transmitting the acknowledgement is comprises transmitting an update accounting acknowledgement message.

7. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
configuring ~~wherein~~ the network element is a controller of ~~the a~~ communications session relating to the accounting session.

8. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1, wherein the step of  
establishing an accounting session ~~includes~~ comprises establishing an accounting session between the charging function and a further network element.

9. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 8, further comprising:  
~~the step of establishing an accounting session between an application for the~~  
accounting session and the charging function.

10. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 8, further  
comprising:

~~the step of establishing an accounting session between a control function for the~~  
accounting session and the charging function.

11. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~  
initiating the change in the accounting session between the network element controlling  
the session and the charging function is responsive to a change in ~~the~~ at least one further  
accounting session of the accounting session between the charging function and a further  
network element or the accounting session between an application for the accounting  
session and the charging function.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

associating ~~wherein the accounting session is associated with a pre-paid charging~~  
function.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~configuring wherein the IP-internet protocol~~ based communication system ~~to~~  
supports a Diameter ~~diameter~~ IP-internet protocol.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~n~~ charging element, comprising:  
a monitor unit configured to ~~for monitoring~~ charging in an IP-internet protocol  
based communication system;  
~~comprising:~~ an establishment unit configured to ~~means for establishing~~ an  
accounting session with an application;  
an information unit configured to ~~means for informing~~ a network element  
~~controlling configured to control~~ an associated communication session of the accounting  
session, wherein the network element comprises a gateway of the internet protocol based  
communication system; and  
an initiation unit configured to ~~means for initiating~~ initiate a change in the  
accounting session,  
wherein the ~~means for initiating a change in the accounting session~~ initiation unit  
~~includes~~ comprises a transmission unit configured to ~~means for transmitting~~ receive a  
request to update the accounting session.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~n~~ The element according to claim 14, wherein the  
request ~~is~~ comprises an update accounting request message.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The element according to claim 14, wherein the initiation unit is configured to implement a change in the charging of the accounting session ~~is implemented responsive to the request.~~

18. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The element according to claim 14, wherein ~~responsive to the request the network element~~ is configured to transmits an acknowledgement to the charging function responsive to the request.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The element according to claim 18, wherein the acknowledgement ~~is~~ comprises an update accounting acknowledgement message.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The element according to claim 14, wherein the network element ~~is~~ comprises a controller of the associated communications session.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The element according to claim 14, wherein the communication system is configured to supports a Diameter-diameter IP-internet protocol.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The element according to claim 21, wherein the ~~means for initiating a change in the accounting session includes means for transmitting a~~

~~request to update the accounting session, and wherein the request signal is~~ configured to be transferred-transmitted using a ~~Diameter~~ diameter ~~IP-internet~~ IP-internet protocol.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The element according to claim 21, wherein the element is configured, responsive to the request the network element to transmits an acknowledgement to the charging function responsive to the request, and wherein the acknowledgement signal is ~~transferred~~ configured to be transmitted using a ~~Diameter~~ diameter ~~IP-internet~~ IP-internet protocol.

24. (Currently Amended) A communication system ~~in which charging for the provision of services is implemented in a session, the system comprising:~~

a network element ~~for controlling~~ configured to control the ~~a session for the provision of services in an internet protocol based communication system, wherein the network element comprises a gateway of the internet protocol based communication system;~~

an application for the session;

a control function for the session; and

a charging function,

wherein at least one accounting session is configured to be established between the charging function and at least one of the network element, the application, ~~and or~~ the control function, and

wherein the charging function is ~~adapted~~ configured to initiate a change in the at least one accounting session by transmitting a request to update the accounting session to the network element.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ communication system according to claim 24, wherein the charging of the charging function ~~is~~ comprises pre-paid charging.

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ communication system according to claim 24, wherein there is ~~provided~~ further comprising:

a plurality of accounting sessions, wherein the charging function initiates a change in one accounting session of the plurality of accounting sessions responsive to a change in another accounting session of the plurality of accounting sessions.

27. (New) A charging element, comprising:

monitor means for monitoring charging in an internet protocol based communication system;

establishment means for establishing an accounting session with an application;

information means for informing a network element configured to control an associated communication session of the accounting session, wherein the network element comprises a gateway of the internet protocol based communication system; and

initiation means for initiating a change in the accounting session,

wherein the initiation means comprises transmission means for receiving a request to update the accounting session.